

Missouri Valley College Honors Program Handbook 2013-2014

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Purpose and Description

The MVC Honors Program promotes intellectual inquiry and advanced study for outstanding students who seek additional academic challenge. Students take five Honors seminars in which they engage with primary texts as a means of understanding the historical development of significant movements in thought. As a means of acquiring multicultural knowledge, students take a foreign language or study abroad. The program also encourages deeper exploration of particular disciplines through “contract” classes and an Honors thesis in the student’s major.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate effective communication skills
- Exercise inquiry, critical, and creative thinking skills
- Engage contemporary and enduring questions of human concern
- Understand how societies and cultures evolve
- Understand the diverse methodologies of the sciences, humanities, and the arts
- Develop and apply personal and social ethics
- Exhibit multicultural knowledge and sensitivity

Admission requirements

Applicants should have earned a minimum combined ACT score of 24 or a combined Critical Reading and Math SAT score of 1090. Eligible students, in addition to completing the MVC application for admission, must also write a 300-400 word essay that explains why they are interested in the Honors Program and submit it to honors@moval.edu. Applications will be reviewed January 15, May 1, and August 15 for the following academic year.

If the minimum ACT or SAT score is not met, students can petition the Honors Program Director for admission. In addition to the other admissions requirements, these students should write a letter that provides evidence that they will succeed in Honors.

Transfer and Current Students - Students who have completed 15-30 hours of course work with a GPA of 3.5 or above at any accredited college or university are also invited to apply for admission.

Advantages of Participation

- Opportunities to enhance and refine writing skills by working closely with faculty
- Priority housing beginning sophomore year
- 25% scholarship for study abroad (maximum of \$1500)
- Small honors classes designed and taught by Honors faculty
- Priority registration for courses each semester
- One coffee card per semester (worth \$5.00 toward hot drinks in the library)
- Overdue fines waived for Murrell Library materials (does not apply to items borrowed through Quest or MOBIUS, and charges for items not returned at the end of the semester cannot be waived)
- Opportunity to interact with special guest speakers
- Enhanced classrooms
- Special recognition at graduation and convocation

Curriculum

HN 100 Introduction to the Honors Program (1 credit)

This course teaches students approaches to critical thinking and writing in preparation for Honors Seminars. Fall.

Honors Seminars (3 credits each): a series of Writing Intensive, interdisciplinary classes in which students read primary texts. These courses replace 15 hours of General Education course requirements as specified below. ***

HN 190: Honors Humanities I: The Ancient World to the Baroque Age

The first course in the Honors sequence intensively examines the arts in Western civilization from the ancient world through the Baroque period using primary texts. Focus will be on art, architecture, and literature; course includes discussion of social conditions and philosophy. Spring.

HN 290: Revolutions in Scientific Thought

The second course in the Honors sequence emphasizes scientific revolutions that occurred from 1600 to the present through primary texts. Fall.

HN 291: Honors Humanities II: The Age of Reason to the Modern Era

The third course in the Honors sequence intensively examines the arts in Western civilization from the Age of Reason through the modern era using primary texts. Focus will be on art, architecture, and literature; course includes discussion of social conditions and philosophy. Spring.

HN 390: The Self, Human Nature, Freedom, and Society

The fourth course in the Honors sequence analyzes primary texts in psychology, sociology, and political science. Fall.

HN 490: Philosophy and Ethics

The culminating course in the Honors sequence analyzes primary texts in moral philosophy from ancient through modern times. Spring.

HN 400: Independent Research (1 credit)

Students work independently with a faculty member in their major to develop and write a proposal for an Honors Thesis (HN 485).

HN 485: Honors Thesis (1 credit)

In conjunction with the Senior Seminar/Thesis in their major, Honors students produce a thesis of publishable quality and formally present it to the campus community. A committee of three professors—the major thesis professor plus two other faculty (at least one of whom must hold a terminal degree) of the student's choosing—will guide and evaluate the final thesis to determine the final grade for HN 485.

*Writing Intensive: The five Honors Seminars follow the MVC Writing Across the Curriculum criteria for WI courses. Students will be required to write at least 15 pages /4500 words per

semester. Writing assignments should make up at least 50% of the overall grade. Instructors will be required to provide revision help and feedback on at least 5 pages/1500 words. Students should be given time to revise (after instructor feedback) before submitting those 5 pages of written work.

****General Education substitutions**

The following honors curriculum will substitute as general education core curriculum as listed below.

HN 190 Honors Humanities I for Core I A - EN 160

HN 290 Revolutions in Scientific Thought for Core 3C Historical Knowledge

HN 291 Honors Humanities II for Core 3D Art & Creativity

HN 390 The Self, Human Nature, Freedom, and Society for Core 3B Reflection & Meaning

HN 490 Philosophy and Ethics for Core 2D Ethics

Students are required to take 6 credits of foreign language OR complete a study abroad experience of at least 4 weeks.

Contract classes (6 credits): within their major students will also choose two courses (junior or senior level) to complete additional work under “contract” with the faculty member. Students receive the same amount of credit for the course, but it will be marked on their transcript as an Honors course. To determine if the faculty member wishes to “contract” with the student for Honors credit, the student should meet with the faculty member who will teach the course and request to take the course for Honors credit prior to registration.

The faculty member and the student work together to design the content that will constitute the Honors portion of the course. Any such contract should involve the critical thinking skills that are central to the Honors Program. A course that gives students additional insight, research experience, preparation for graduate work, and writing in the discipline is the aim of the contract course.

Once the content has been designed, the student and faculty member should print and complete the Contract Course form (available on the MVC Honors website, www.moval.edu/academics/mvc_honors/) and return a signed copy with a course syllabus to the Honors Director for approval. The Director should receive the forms by November 1 for spring semester classes and April 15 for fall semester classes.

See Appendix for the Contract Course Form.

Continuing in the Program

To continue participation in the MVC Honors Program, students must receive a grade of A or B in all Honors courses. Additionally, students must maintain a 3.2 g.p.a. their freshman year and a 3.5 g.p.a. every year thereafter. Students must remain in good disciplinary standing at Missouri Valley College.

Students who fall below the g.p.a. requirement or who receive a C or lower in an Honors course will be placed on one semester of probation for the Honors Program. A second C or failure to raise the g.p.a. in the following semester will result in dismissal from the Honors Program.

Contacts

Dr. Jennifer Eimers, Director, eimersj@moval.edu, 660-831-4213

Debbie Coleman, Student Success Director, colemamd@moval.edu, 660-831-4170

Tennille Langdon, Director of Admissions, langdont@moval.edu, 660-831-4157

MVC Honors Program Contract Course Form

Student's Name: _____

Course name and number: _____

Credit hours: _____

Instructor: _____

Semester: _____

The student agrees to perform the work specified below. (Note: the work specified should involve the critical thinking skills and program learning outcomes central to the Honors Program. One additional paper or assignment does not constitute the additional work required for Honors credit. See page 4 of the Honors Handbook.) Attach additional documents if necessary.

Please print and sign form.

Student's signature: _____

Date: _____

Instructor's signature: _____

Date: _____

Honors Program Director's signature: _____